

Senate Engrossed House Bill

FILED

**JANICE K. BREWER
SECRETARY OF STATE**

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Forty-eighth Legislature
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CHAPTER 120

HOUSE BILL 2247

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 46-298 AND 46-300, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 46-298, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 46-298. Diversion from long-term assistance; report; definition

5 A. At the time an applicant's employability is assessed during the
6 initial application for assistance, the department shall determine whether
7 the applicant should be offered services under the diversion option RATHER
8 THAN LONG-TERM CASH ASSISTANCE. The assessment shall consider the following:

9 1. The applicant's employment history.

10 2. The likelihood of the applicant obtaining ~~immediate~~, full-time
11 employment given the applicant's education, training and work experience
12 WITHIN NINETY DAYS OF THE INITIAL APPLICATION.

13 3. The applicant's need for cash assistance.

14 B. If the department finds that the applicant is eligible for the
15 diversion option, it shall explain the benefits and requirements to the
16 applicant, including the amount of the DIVERSION OPTION PAYMENT. ~~cash~~
17 ~~assistance payment determined appropriate by the department. In determining~~
18 ~~the amount of the cash assistance, the department shall consider housing~~
19 ~~expenses, automobile expenses, repair or replacement of major household~~
20 ~~appliances, improvements to restore real property to a habitable condition~~
21 ~~and work related expenses.~~

22 C. If the department and the applicant agree to select the diversion
23 option as the appropriate means to self-sufficiency, the department shall
24 issue benefits, if the applicant is eligible, within three working days after
25 the applicant submits a completed application, including all required
26 information and necessary documentation.

27 D. The department shall provide a dollar amount of ~~cash assistance of~~
28 ~~not more than~~ EQUAL TO three times the monthly amount of cash assistance for
29 which the applicant qualifies. THE APPLICANT IS ALSO ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE
30 EMPLOYMENT SERVICES, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 46-300.01, SUBSECTION I,
31 ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR NINETY DAYS FROM THE INITIAL APPLICATION
32 TO EXPEDITE EMPLOYMENT PLACEMENT.

33 E. The applicant must sign an agreement that lists the requirements
34 and conditions of the diversion option.

35 F. The department shall expedite employment placement services if
36 these services are requested by an applicant who is approved for and
37 participating in the diversion option.

38 G. An applicant approved for the diversion option is eligible for all
39 other SUPPORT services for which recipients of temporary assistance for needy
40 families are automatically eligible.

41 H. If the applicant decides to reapply for long-term cash assistance
42 within three months from the date of initial application, the department
43 shall prorate the diversion payment to the applicant over a three month
44 period beginning on the date of initial application and subtract this amount

1 from the temporary assistance for needy families payment the applicant's
2 assistance unit receives.

3 I. If the diversion option is not appropriate for an applicant OR THE
4 APPLICANT CHOOSES NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DIVERSION OPTION, the applicant
5 may receive CASH assistance as provided under this chapter.

6 ~~J. For purposes of calculating assistance pursuant to section 46-292,
7 subsection F and section 46-294, subsection A, the department shall use the
8 initial date of application. The payment amount offered under the diversion
9 option shall be converted into the amount of time the individual would have
10 been on the temporary assistance for needy families program to receive that
11 amount of cash assistance. This time period shall apply towards the
12 calculation pursuant to section 46-294, subsection A.~~

13 ~~K. J. The director of the department shall submit a full AN ANNUAL
14 report to the joint legislative budget committee five years after the initial
15 implementation date of the diversion program NINETY DAYS AFTER THE END OF THE
16 FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING WITH FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009. The report shall include:~~

17 1. The number of ~~applicants offered~~ RECIPIENTS PROVIDED services under
18 the diversion option.

19 2. The number of ~~applicants~~ RECIPIENTS who reapply for long-term cash
20 assistance WITHIN ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY DAYS after initially participating in
21 the diversion program.

22 3. THE NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS WHO OBTAINED EMPLOYMENT WITHIN NINETY DAYS
23 OF RECEIVING ASSISTANCE UNDER THE DIVERSION OPTION.

24 ~~L. The joint legislative budget committee shall review the report and
25 make a recommendation to the legislature to continue or discontinue the
26 program.~~

27 ~~M. K. For THE purposes of this section, "diversion option" means
28 granting an amount of cash assistance BENEFITS to certain applicants who are
29 eligible for long-term cash assistance but who have only short-term cash
30 assistance needs and who find the assistance services described in this
31 section the most appropriate means to self-sufficiency.~~

32 Sec. 2. Section 46-300, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

33 46-300. Sanctions

34 A. The department shall impose a series of graduated sanctions as
35 described in subsection C of this section for any noncompliance with:

36 1. The child support enforcement efforts required by section 46-292,
37 subsection C unless good cause is established as provided in section 46-292,
38 subsections E and F.

39 2. The work activities requirements described in section 46-299,
40 unless good cause is established as provided in section 46-299, subsection H
41 and department rules. A RECIPIENT WHO DOES NOT COMPLY WITH THE WORK
42 ACTIVITIES REQUIREMENTS SHALL DEMONSTRATE COMPLIANCE WITH THE WORK ACTIVITIES
43 REQUIREMENTS IN ORDER TO CONTINUE BENEFIT ELIGIBILITY AND TO AVOID SANCTIONS.

44 3. The school enrollment and attendance ~~provisions~~ REQUIREMENTS of
45 section 46-292, subsection P.

1 4. The immunization requirements of section 46-292, subsection Q.

2 B. Noncompliance with one or more of the requirements listed in
3 subsection A of this section during any calendar month is deemed to be a
4 month of noncompliance and shall result in the sanctions prescribed in
5 subsection C of this section. The department shall impose these graduated
6 sanctions even if the instances of noncompliance do not occur in consecutive
7 months.

8 C. The department shall impose the following sanctions:

9 1. For the first instance of noncompliance, the department shall
10 reduce the household's cash assistance grant by twenty-five per cent for one
11 month.

12 2. For a second instance of noncompliance that occurs in a month other
13 than the month in which the first noncompliance occurred, the department
14 shall reduce the household's cash assistance grant by fifty per cent for one
15 month.

16 3. For a third instance of noncompliance that occurs in a month other
17 than the month in which the second noncompliance occurred and any instance of
18 noncompliance thereafter, the department shall terminate the household's cash
19 assistance grant for at least one month or until the household complies.

~~APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR APRIL 24, 2007.~~

~~FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE APRIL 24, 2007.~~